

Closing Opportunity Gaps for California Students

Online Educational Resources Program

Report to the Legislature

2020-2021 Fiscal Year

California State Library

California invests \$3 million annually in the “Online Educational Resources Program,” which provides research and homework resources for the state’s 6.2 million public school students. The project is an example of California’s ongoing commitment to making educational opportunities available to all students, families, and residents.

This investment provides every California public school student, educator, and family with unlimited access to millions of curated research and literary resources from Britannica, ProQuest, and TeachingBooks as well as technical support and training in maximizing use.

Since the project began in July 2018, there have been more than 231 million investigations and searches -- more than 93 million of them since schools and libraries were shuttered in March 2020 because of the pandemic.

By laptop, tablet or phone – at school, at the library or at home – students are able to research, analyze and use information and media in a way that is self-directed and student-focused, developing both digital literacy and critical thinking skills.

Teachers are better able to build content geared to the interests and needs of their students. Family members can participate in and support the learning process, too.

The California State Library coordinates statewide access, setup, training, and evaluation of these materials. This report offers an update on the efforts to provide this entire collection of resources to every California school and library.



Every public school and library in California can access these online educational resources. The challenge is to ensure that they know they have that access.

As shown below, the California State Library, in conjunction with the California Department of Education, county offices of education, school districts, and numerous educational organizations, is actively working to integrate these resources into existing local digital infrastructures to ensure maximum access and usage.

This report updates usage statistics and provides the latest efforts to:

1. Ensure that every school and library in California has seamless and equal access to these state-funded resources for all of their students, staff, and families.
2. Ensure that every educator and library professional in California is offered quality opportunities to be trained in using these state-funded resources to greatest advantage.

Summary of Connected Districts and Public Libraries

	Schools	Library Systems
Total Connected:	9,144	160
Total Statewide:	10,189	185
Percent Connected:	90%	86%

As of June 30, 2021, 830 school districts and county offices of education are connected to these resources, as are 92 percent of all public school students, as shown below.

California Students Connected

Total Students Connected:	5,720,612
Total Public School Students:	6,202,488
Percent Connected:	92%



Usage:

Since July 2018 when this project began, there have been more than 231 million actions by California schools, libraries, and residents.

An “action” is any time someone explores or searches any of the digital resources, calculated as the sum of total investigations and searches.

After COVID-19 shuttered schools and libraries in March, 2020, more than 93 million actions have occurred on California K-12 Online Educational Resources.

Figure 1, below top, compares use of three data points in 2020 and 2021. Figure 2 shows the ratio of searches and investigations since COVID-19 took hold in March 2020.

Figure 1: Usage of Resources By Type and By Quarter

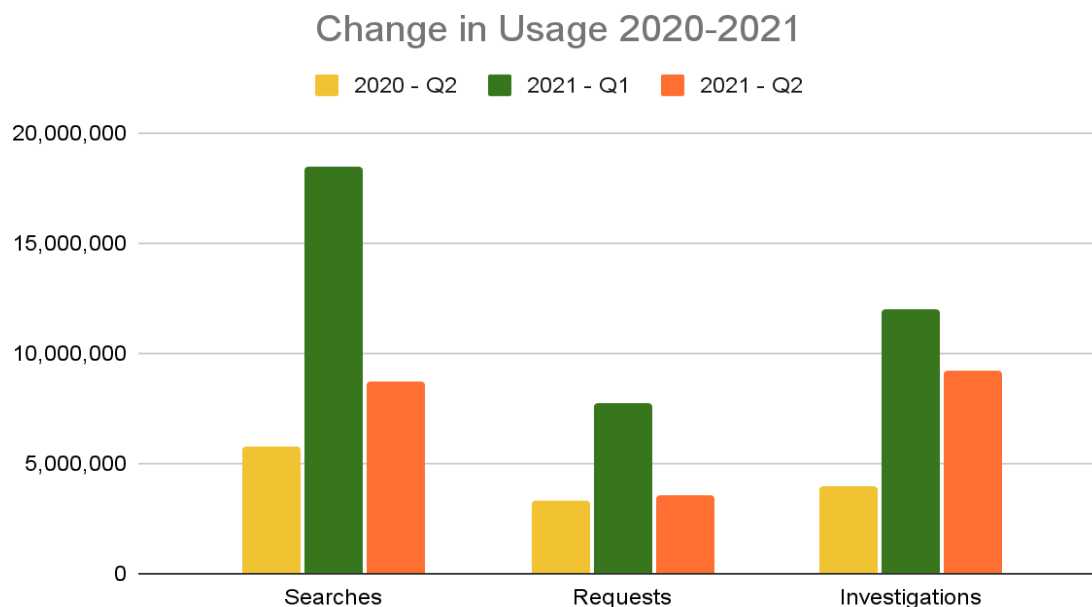
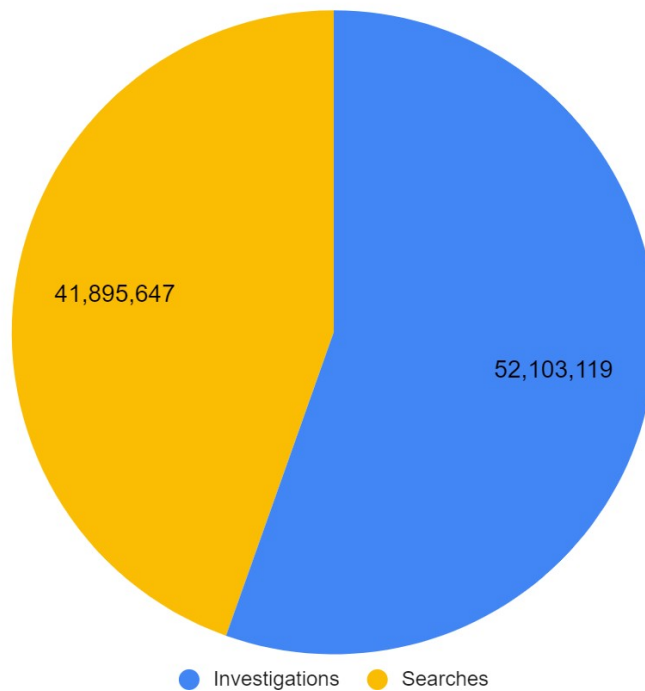




Figure 2: Ratio of Searches and Investigations since March 2020

**Total Actions on K-12 Online Content Project Since
COVID-19 (Mar 2020-Jun 2021)**

93,998,766 Total Actions (Investigations and Searches)





Connecting All Public Schools:

The map below in Figure 3 shows the percentage of students in each county that are connected. These districts serve 92 percent of the student population in California.

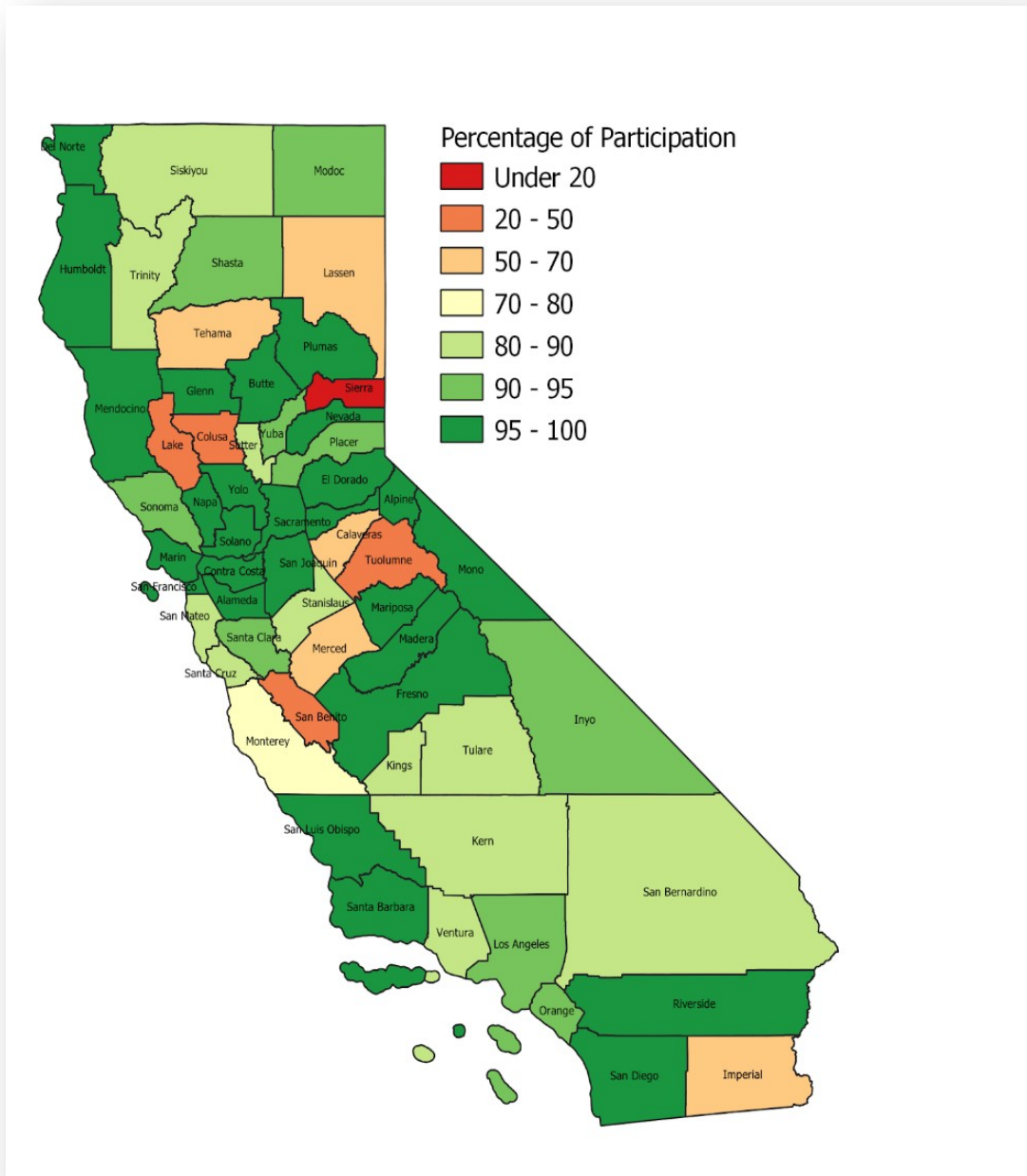


Figure 3: Student Population Connected By County



Figure 4 tracks the progression of connection to TeachingBooks, ProQuest, and Encyclopaedia Britannica as a percentage of students by county.

In 2018 when the project began, no one had access.

Today, in nearly all counties at least 80 percent of their students have access to these online learning tools.

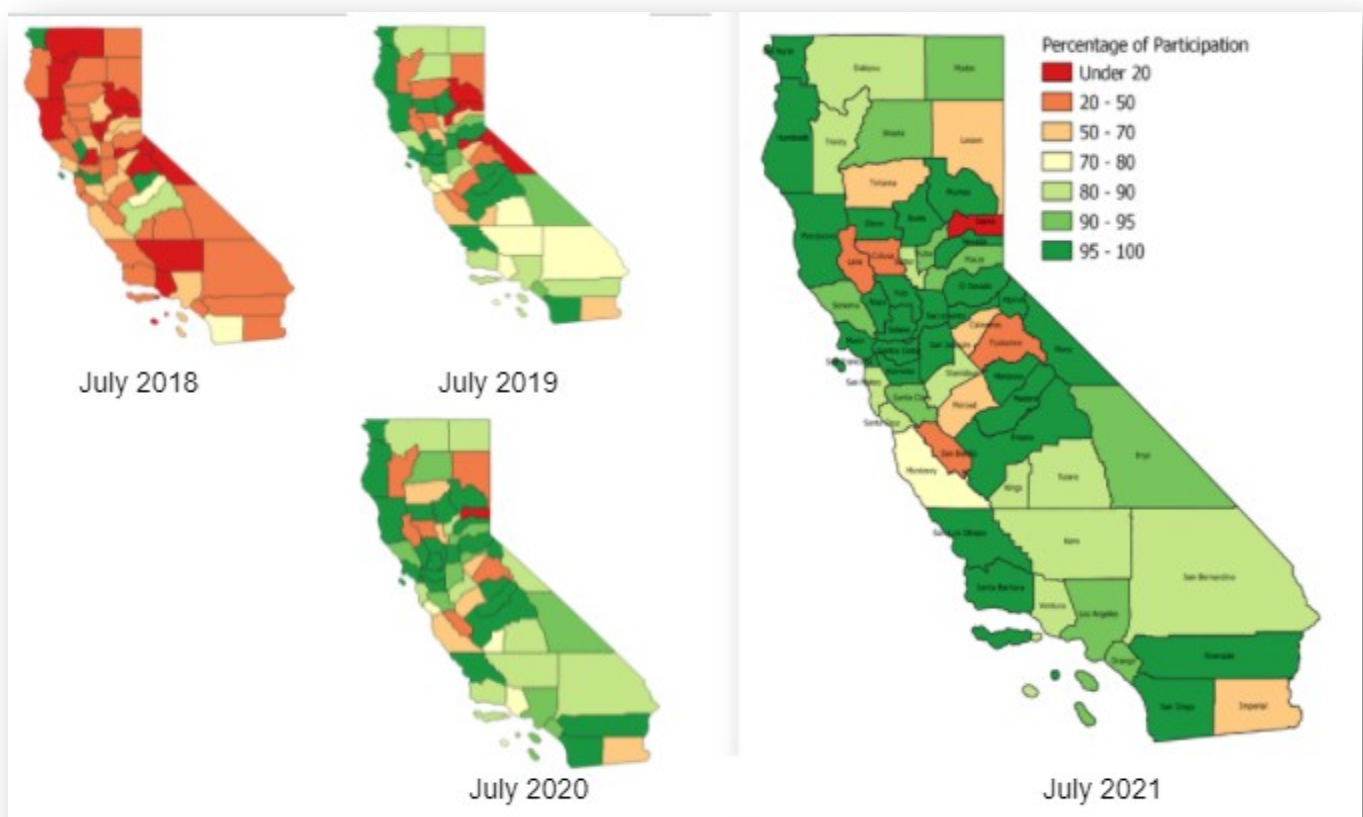


Figure 4 – Progression of School Districts Connected, 2018 - 2021



The chart below displays the number of districts and students able to access these online resources. Smaller districts remain the greatest connection challenges.

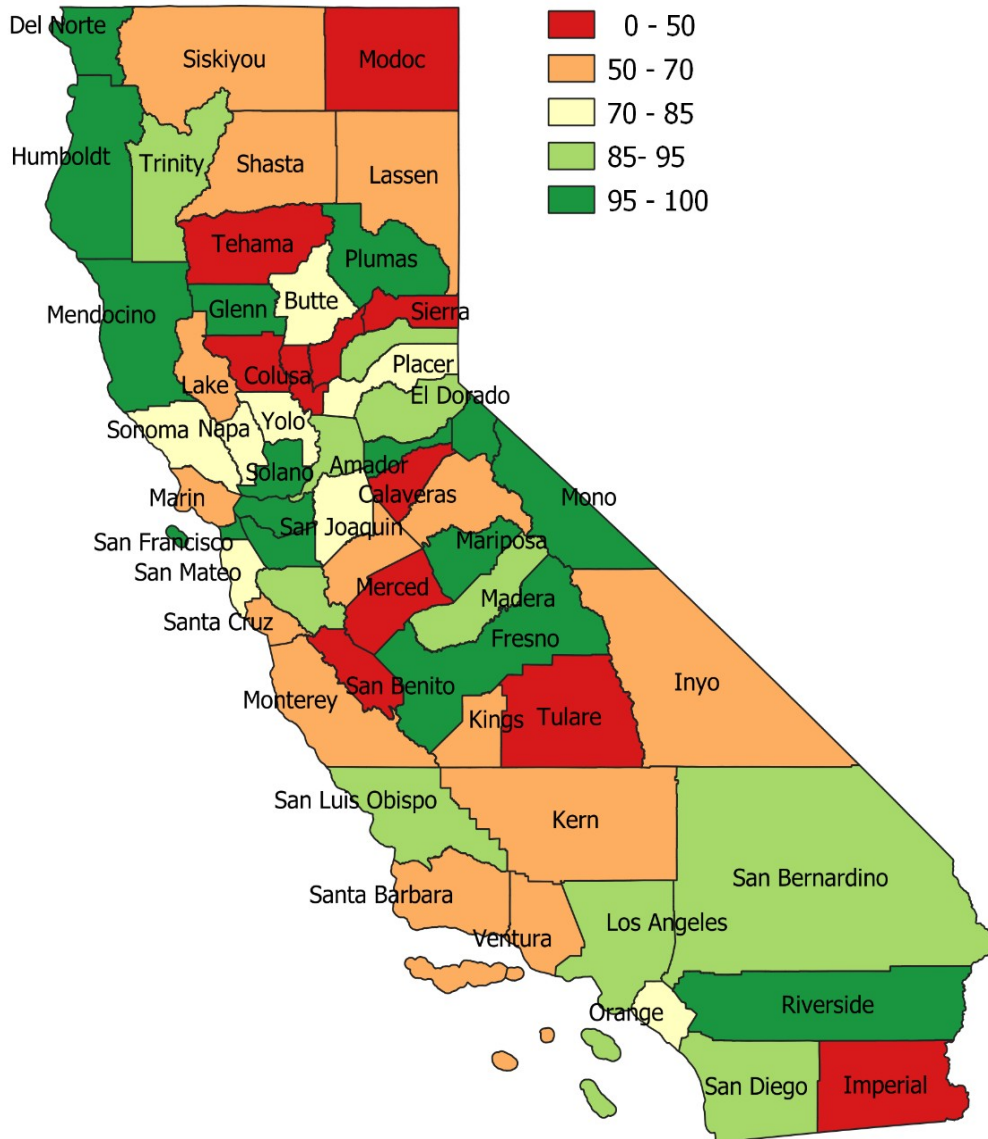
Percent of Students Connected	Students Still to be Connected	Number of Counties	Percentage of Counties	Cumulative Count of Counties	Cumulative Percent of Counties
97.5 to 100	9,136	24	41.4%	24	100.0%
95 to 97.5	27,725	4	6.9%	28	58.6%
85 to 95	193,661	15	25.9%	42	51.7%
65 to 85	79,571	5	8.6%	47	25.8%
50 to 65	54,306	5	8.6%	53	17.2%
0 to 50	19,863	5	8.6%	58	8.6%

Having a large number of districts does not necessarily mean that a large number of students are served. For example, one school district in a rural county could account for 90 percent of all students.

Figure 5 on the next page shows the percentage of districts within each county that are connected to these resources as of June30, 2021.



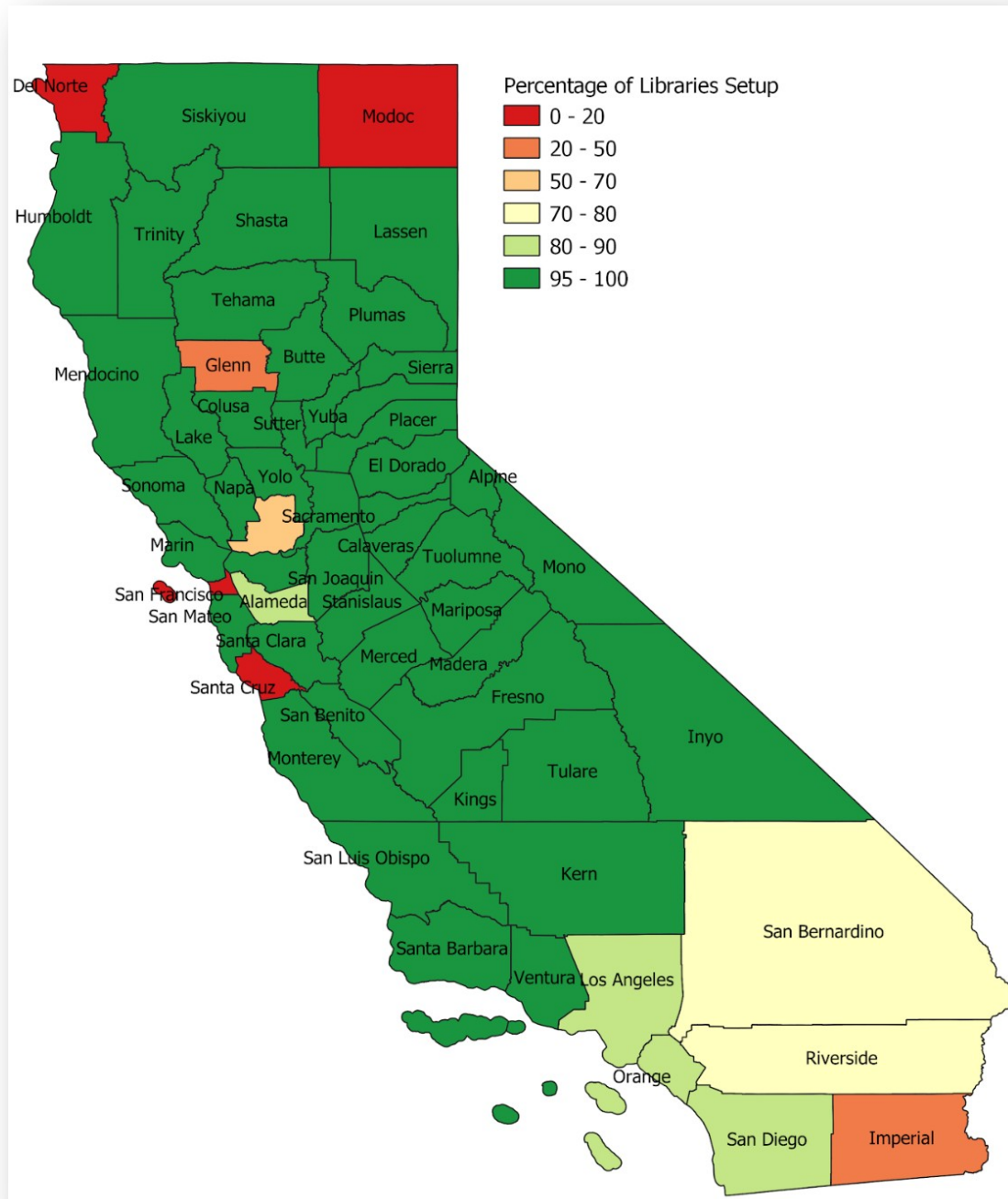
Figure 5: Percentage of Districts By County That Are Connected





Connecting All Public Libraries:

Of the 185 library jurisdictions in the state – 1,130 individual branches -- 87 percent (as of June 30, 2021) have completed the setup forms so that their patrons can connect to online educational resources. This represents 92 percent of the state population of which 23 million have library cards. See Figure 6 below.

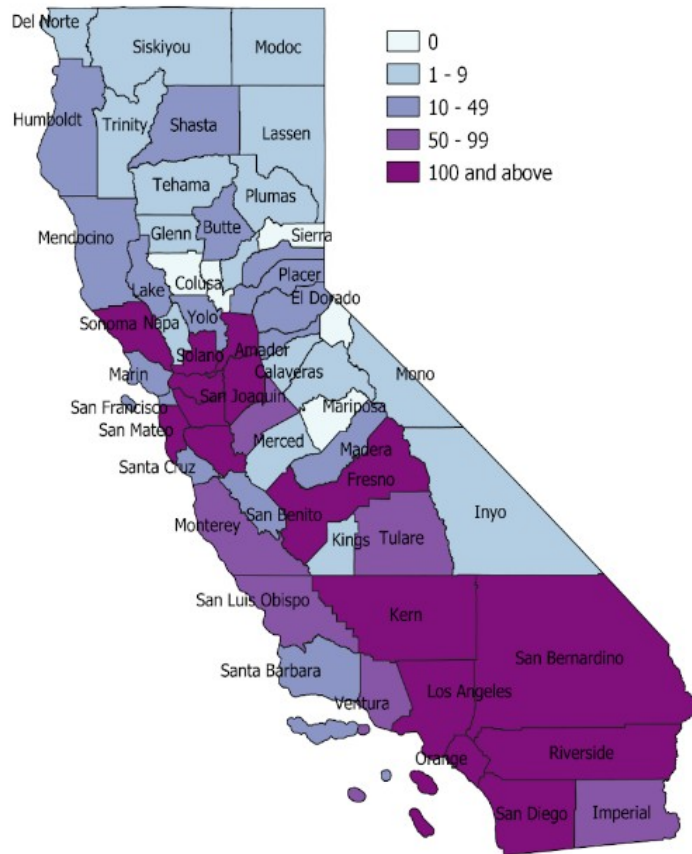


Conferences, Trainings and Orientations:

Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 the State Library coordinated online trainings with 5,114 attendees, from at least 53 different counties. [See the catalog listing of all recent trainings.](#)

More than 3,900 California school and library staff were trained from January 1 to June 30, 2021. The bulk of the participants – 19.3 percent -- were from the Los Angeles County area.

Figure 7: Trainings through June 30, 2021.



County offices of education throughout the state have participated in this effort to host and disseminate information about trainings as well as the California School Library



Association, which offered eight sessions at its annual conference to promote and provide attendees learning opportunities about the resources in this project.

Assistance from the school librarians association and county offices of education has proven particularly helpful, especially in reaching smaller, rural districts who often rely on county offices of education and professional associations to provide logistical and technical support.

Nonetheless, during the current fiscal year, Alpine, Colusa, Mariposa, Sierra, and Sutter counties have not attended webinars.

Looking Forward:

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the State Library will connect more districts and county offices of education; conduct more trainings; schedule trainings for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; and support summer reading programs in public libraries.

The focus will be on using the county-by-county data in this report to continue expanding equal access and meaningful use of these resources for all California students.

Appendix:

Examine in the online Appendix updated spreadsheets, tables, and details on usage, training, and integration of these educational resources statewide.

Note: All statistics are based on the COUNTER 5 international database standards.